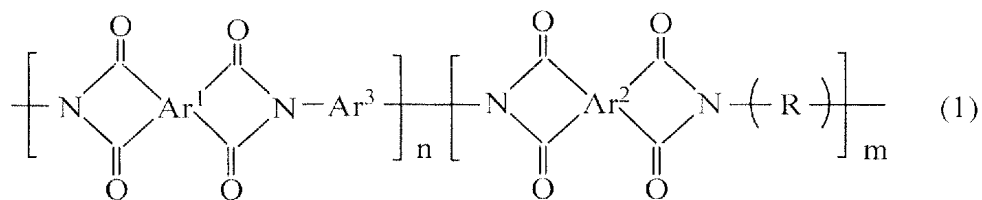


Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A polyimide resin having a basic skeleton represented by the following general formula:

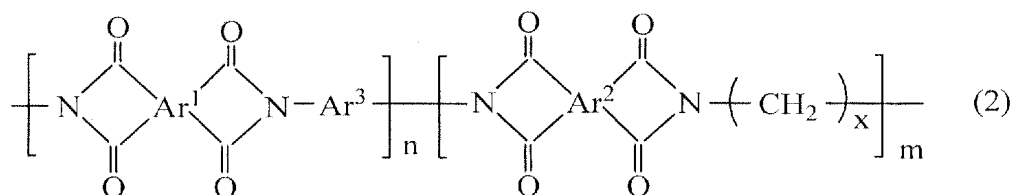
[Formula 1]



(in the formula (1), each of Ar^1 and Ar^2 is an aromatic ring having a carbon number of 6-20, which forms an imide ring of 5 or 6 atoms with an imide group adjoining thereto. In the aromatic ring, a part of carbon atoms may be substituted with S, N, O, SO_2 or CO, or a part of hydrogen atoms may be substituted with an aliphatic group, a halogen atom or a perfluoro aliphatic group. Ar^1 and Ar^2 may be same or different. R is at least one of linear alkylene group and branched alkylene group having a carbon number of 1-20. Ar^3 is an aromatic ring having a carbon number of 6-20 in which at least a part of hydrogen atoms is substituted with at least one of sulfoalkoxy group, carboalkoxy group and phosphoalkoxy group having a carbon number of 1-20 and a part of carbon atoms in these groups may be substituted with S, N, O, SO_2 or CO, or a part of hydrogen atoms may be substituted with an aliphatic group, a halogen atom or a perfluoro aliphatic group. n and m show a polymerization degree and are an integer of not less than 2.)

2. (Original) A polyimide resin according to claim 1, wherein the basic skeleton is represented by the following general formula (2):

[Formula 2]

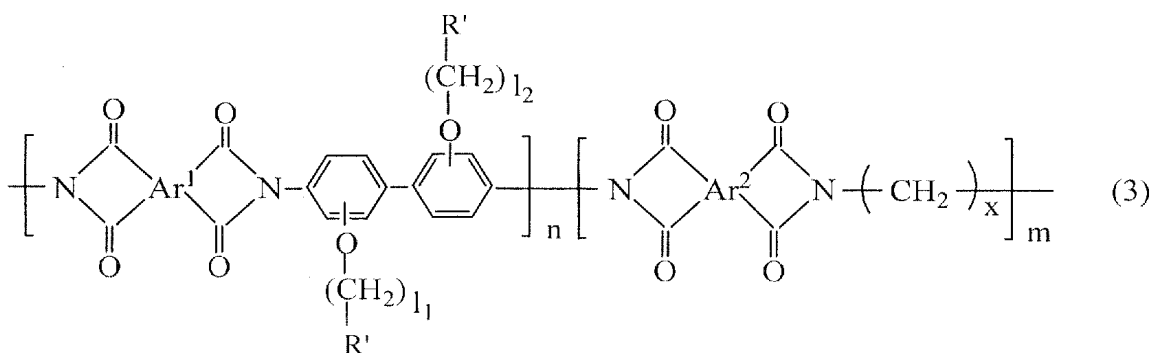


(in the formula (2), each of Ar^1 and Ar^2 is an aromatic ring having a carbon number of 6-20, which forms an imide ring of 5 or 6 atoms with an imide group adjoining thereto. In the aromatic ring, a part of carbon atoms may be substituted with S, N, O, SO_2 or CO, or a part of hydrogen atoms may be substituted with an aliphatic group, a halogen atom or a perfluoro aliphatic group. Ar^1 and Ar^2 may be same or different. x shows the carbon number of an alkylene group and is an integer of 1-20. Ar^3 is an aromatic ring having a

carbon number of 6-20 in which at least a part of hydrogen atoms is substituted with at least one of sulfoalkoxy group, carboalkoxy group and phosphoalkoxy group having a carbon number of 1-20 and a part of carbon atoms in these groups may be substituted with S, N, O, SO₂ or CO, or a part of hydrogen atoms may be substituted with an aliphatic group, a halogen atom or a perfluoro aliphatic group. n and m show a polymerization degree and are an integer of not less than 2.)

3. (Previously presented) A polyimide resin according to claim 2, wherein the basic skeleton is represented by the following general formula (3):

[Formula 3]



(in the formula (3), each of Ar¹ and Ar² is an aromatic ring having a carbon number of 6-20, which forms an imide ring of 5 or 6 atoms with an imide group adjoining thereto. In the aromatic ring, a part of carbon atoms may be substituted with S, N, O, SO₂ or CO, or a part of hydrogen atoms may be substituted with an aliphatic group, a halogen atom or a perfluoro aliphatic group. Ar¹ and Ar² may be same or different. x shows the carbon number of an alkylene group and is an integer of 1-20. Also, R' is at least one of a sulfonic acid group, a carboxylic acid group and phosphinic acid group, and each of l₁ and l₂ is a carbon number of at least one of a sulfoalkoxy group, a carboalkoxy group and a phosphoalkoxy group and is an integer of 1-20. l₁ and l₂ may be the same or different. n and m show a polymerization degree and are an integer of not less than 2.

4. (Original) A polyimide resin according to claim 3, wherein the carbon number of at least one of a sulfoalkoxy group, a carboalkoxy group and a phosphoalkoxy group shown by l₁ and l₂ in the general formula (3) is 3 or 4.

5. (Previously presented) A polyimide resin according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein n/m in the general formulae (1)-(3) is not more than 95/5 but not less than 30/70.

6. (Previously presented) A polyimide resin according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein a part of at least one of the linear alkylene group and the branched alkylene group shown by R in the general formulae (1)-(3) includes a crosslinking structure.

7. (Previously presented) A polyimide resin according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein an average molecular weight is not less than 5000.

8-21. (Canceled)

22. (New) A polyimide resin according to claim 4, wherein n/m in the general formulae (1)-(3) is not more than 95/5 but not less than 30/70.

23. (New) A polyimide resin according to claim 4, wherein a part of at least one of the linear alkylene group and the branched alkylene group shown by R in the general formulae (1)-(3) includes a crosslinking structure.

24. (New) A polyimide resin according to claim 5, wherein a part of at least one of the linear alkylene group and the branched alkylene group shown by R in the general formulae (1)-(3) includes a crosslinking structure.

25. (New) A polyimide resin according to claim 22, wherein a part of at least one of the linear alkylene group and the branched alkylene group shown by R in the general formulae (1)-(3) includes a crosslinking structure.

26. (New) A polyimide resin according to claim 4, wherein an average molecular weight is not less than 5000.

27. (New) A polyimide resin according to claim 5, wherein an average molecular weight is not less than 5000.

28. (New) A polyimide resin according to claim 6, wherein an average molecular weight is not less than 5000.

29. (New) A polyimide resin according to claim 22, wherein an average molecular weight is not less than 5000.

30. (New) A polyimide resin according to claim 23, wherein an average molecular weight is not less than 5000.

31. (New) A polyimide resin according to claim 24, wherein an average molecular weight is not less than 5000.

32. (New) A polyimide resin according to claim 25, wherein an average molecular weight is not less than 5000.